

**To:** R6 Daily News MailList[R6\_DailyNewsML@epa.gov]  
**From:** Hubbard, Joseph  
**Sent:** Mon 8/24/2015 3:10:57 PM  
**Subject:** Region 6, Daily News Digest, Aug 24  
[Daily News Digest 08242015.pdf](#)

**1 — EPA knew of 'blowout' risk for tainted water at gold mine, AP, 8/22/2015**

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ce3904534ec443f488f620a9af83a9b4/epa-knew-blow-out-risk-tainted-water-gold-mine>

U.S. officials knew of the potential for a catastrophic "blowout" of poisonous wastewater from an inactive gold mine, yet appeared to have only a cursory plan to deal with such an event when a government cleanup team triggered a 3-million-gallon spill, according to internal documents released by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA released the documents late Friday following weeks of prodding from The Associated Press and other media organizations.

**2 — (Opinion) Let Gold King spill be a warning, Albuquerque Journal, 8/24/2015**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/633045/opinion/let-gold-king-spill-be-a-warning.html>

We have watched in horror and sadness as images of an orange, heavy metal-laden plume of mine wastewater flow down the Animas River from an accidental release at the inactive Gold King Mine in Colorado, impacting communities, farmers, wildlife and recreation along the way. Our thoughts are with the people who have been adversely affected, as well as those who are working around the clock to clean up and restore the watersheds contaminated by the accident.

**3 — EPA: Animas River surface water returning to pre-spill conditions, Denver Post, 8/23/2015**

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_28690510/epa-animas-river-surface-water-returning-pre-spill](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28690510/epa-animas-river-surface-water-returning-pre-spill)

Environmental Protection Agency officials released new data Sunday that they said indicates surface water concentrations from the Animas River are returning to their normal conditions. Water samples collected by the EPA on Aug. 16 and 17 have been validated, the agency said.

**4 — 'Reasonable' the crux in views on EPA's haze-pollution plan, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, 8/23/2015**

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2015/aug/23/reasonable-the-crux-in-views-on-epa-s->

[h/?f=news-arkansas](#)

The debate on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal for Arkansas to comply with a 1999 rule on haze centers on what federal, state, industry and environmental groups find "reasonable," according to public comments published by the EPA last weekend.

### **5 (Opinion) Political Target: Natural Gas, NY Times, 8/23/2015**

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/political-target-natural-gas-1440367941?tesla=y&mod=vocus>

America's natural gas boom has been a rare economic bright spot, and even President Obama likes to take credit for it. But as his term winds down, the Administration is waging a war of regulatory attrition to raise drilling costs and reduce its competitive advantage over wind and solar power. The latest effort came last week when the Environmental Protection Agency issued its new rule to slash emissions of methane, a byproduct of oil and gas drilling.

### **6 Attorneys argue powers during hearing on federal water rule, NewOK, 8/21/2015**

<http://newsok.com/attorneys-argue-powers-during-hearing-on-federal-water-rule/article/feed/879128>

Attorneys argued over state and federal powers for more than four hours Friday on an effort by 13 states to block a new rule that gives U.S. authorities jurisdiction over some state waters. North Dakota is leading a lawsuit filed on June 29 challenging an Obama administration rule that gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers authority to protect some streams, tributaries and wetlands under the Clean Water Act.

### **7 – Methane regulations good for investors as well as the climate, Houston Chronicle, 8/20/2015**

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/columnists/tomlinson/article/Methane-regulations-good-for-investors-as-well-as-6455605.php>

Natural gas producers have a choice to make: contribute to the problem of climate change and look greedy or become part of the solution, appear forward-thinking and make more money.

### **8 — (OP-ED) Richard Greene: EPA finalizes most sweeping regulations ever, Star-telegram, 8/21/2015**

<http://www.star-telegram.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/richard-greene/article31848459.html>

Earlier this month the Environmental Protection Agency finalized the most sweeping set of regulations ever devised to govern our nation's energy providers. Heralding the new rules as necessary to save the planet from catastrophic global warming, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy proudly proclaimed the result would be a healthier nation and a stronger economy.

**9 — Editorial: Texas has big role to play in cracking down on methane emissions, DMN, 8/20/2015**

<http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/20150823-editorial-texas-has-big-role-to-play-in-cracking-down-on-methane-emissions.ece>

If you are wondering why the Obama administration wants to crack down on methane emissions from the oil and gas industry, consider these facts. Methane is 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas that most of us know as a major contributor to global warming. Carbon dioxide stays in the air longer, but methane traps heat quicker. That's a big problem.

**10 — Texas Seeks Clean Power Plan Administrative Stay, BNA, 8/21/2015**

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=74602421&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0h1u5h](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=74602421&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0h1u5h)

Texas has asked the Environmental Protection Agency for an administrative stay of its Clean Power Plan rule until legal challenges can be resolved, according to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R). A stay of the rule is necessary to maintain the status quo during the course of the litigation, said Jon Niermann, Environmental Protection Division chief, in an Aug. 20 letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. While no harm would result from a stay, states will suffer irreparable harm by implementing the rule now, according to the letter.

**11 — New Orleans' post-Katrina repairs pose lead poisoning threat, magazine says, Times Picayune, 8/20/2015**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/08/post-katrina\\_renovations\\_pose.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/08/post-katrina_renovations_pose.html#incart_river)

Lead poisoning remains a threat to children in New Orleans ten years after Hurricane Katrina, thanks to the exposure of a new generation of children during the sanding of old paint in post-storm renovations, according to an online article published Wednesday in National Geographic. Reporter Lindsey Konkel points to dramatic demographic changes in the city that have resulted

in a plummet in the number of African-American children with high levels of lead in their blood.

**12 — St. Bernard settles brain-eating amoeba death suit with family, Times-Picayune, 8/20/2015**

[http://blog.nola.com/crime\\_impact/print.html?entry=/2015/08/st\\_bernard\\_settles\\_brain-eatin.html](http://blog.nola.com/crime_impact/print.html?entry=/2015/08/st_bernard_settles_brain-eatin.html)

St. Bernard Parish government this week settled a federal lawsuit filed after a brain eating-amoeba in the parish's water system killed a 4-year-old Mississippi boy in 2013. Parish President Dave Peralta would not comment Thursday (Aug. 20) on the terms of the settlement. Attorneys for the family did not immediately return messages seeking further details.

**13 — State's Role in Unhealthy Water Probed, Texas Tribune, 8/20/2015**

<http://www.texastribune.org/2015/08/20/lawyers-state-responsible-undrinkable-water-webb-c/>

The state of Texas should have done more to protect the safety of drinking water for two small border communities in Webb County, defense lawyers argued Thursday in the criminal trial for two former water treatment plant employees. Former Webb County employees Johnny Amaya and Luis Camacho are accused of lying about quality of drinking water treated at the Rio Bravo Water Treatment Plant, which serves the neighboring towns of Rio Bravo and El Cenizo.

**14 — Baton Rouge grew after Katrina while forging closer ties to recovering New Orleans, Baton Rouge Advocate, 8/24/2015**

<http://theadvocate.com/news/13229069-123/baton-rouge-grew-after-katrina>

In the days following Hurricane Katrina and the levee breaches that flooded 80 percent of New Orleans, Baton Rouge — the closest large city — sat in the crosshairs of a human tide. New Orleans' future seemed uncertain. Speculation was rife that greater Baton Rouge, full of evacuees and serving as a storm-recovery staging area, could become the long-term beneficiary of one of the deadliest and most costly hurricanes in U.S. history.

**15 — 10 Years After Katrina, Louisiana Is Becoming A Model For Climate Resilience, Huff Post, 8/24/2015**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/10-years-after-katrina-louisiana-is-becoming-a-model-for-climate-resilience\\_55d53afee4b07addcb4586aa?ncid=tweetlnkushpimg00000067](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/10-years-after-katrina-louisiana-is-becoming-a-model-for-climate-resilience_55d53afee4b07addcb4586aa?ncid=tweetlnkushpimg00000067)

A decade after Hurricane Katrina devastated coastal Louisiana, forcing 1.5 million residents to evacuate and causing \$100 billion in damage, the region is becoming a model for climate change adaptation planning -- even if some people in the state still don't want to say the "c" word. Louisiana's governor, long-shot Republican presidential candidate Bobby Jindal, has been non-committal on climate change.